

**Human Rights Committee (HRC)
District East
Open Meeting Minutes**

Department of Economic Security
Division of Developmental Disabilities
120 W. 1st Avenue Mesa, AZ 85210
April 11th, 2018
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Call to Order	Jennifer Huot
Start Time	5:10 pm
Facilitator	Jennifer Huot
Note taker	Taylor Pike
Attendees	<p>HRC Members Present: Jennifer Huot, Sheri Reed, Sarah McGovern, Jill Wilson, Mindee Stevenson, Gina Johnson, Cathryn Whalen, Tonia Schultz, Cynthia Elliot</p> <p>HRC Members Absent: Suzanne Kensington, Paul Sadler, Tammy Leeper</p> <p>Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Staff: Taylor Pike, Barb Picone</p> <p>On the phone: None</p> <p>Public: None</p>
Agenda Topics	Call to Order, Welcome, Barbi Diehl Rouen Presentation, Approval of March 2018 Minutes, HRC Liaison Updates, Call to the Public, Adjournment

Call to Order/Welcome

Committee

Discussion	<p>The Human Rights Committee (HRC) members introduced themselves.</p> <p>Tonia Schultz introduced herself as the Arizona Training Program (ATPC) Facility Representative to Barb Picone, the Quality Assurance Manager for District East.</p>
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Presentation - ABLE Accounts

Barbi Diehl Rouen

Discussion	Barbi Diehl Rouen is the Justice System Liaison and Statewide Benefits Coordinator for the Division of Developmental Disabilities. She is currently standing in for the Executive Director of Arizona's ABLE Program.
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Arizona ABLE

AZ ABLE is Arizona's ABLE Plan. It is administered by the Department of Economic Security. It officially launched March 5th, 2018. It is offered to Arizona residents through a partnership with the Ohio STABLE Account program.

ABLE Accounts provide financial independence for people with disabilities. Benefits are:

- Account is owned by the individual with the disability
- Dramatically increases ability to save
- Before ABLE, individuals could only save around \$2,000 of their own money before risking loss of health care and other benefits
- Creates tax-advantaged investment accounts for individuals with disabilities
- Assets in your account do not affect eligibility for federal or Arizona means-tested benefits programs like SSI or Medicaid
- Hybrid of 529 college savings account + checking account + Special Needs Trust

Who Can Use AZ ABLE?

- Limit of one account per person
- Individuals with disabilities that occurred prior to age 26
- Must be an Arizona resident
- Must also meet one of three criteria:
 1. Eligible to receive SSI or SSDI due to disability;
 2. Have a condition listed on SSA's "*List of Compassionate Allowances Conditions*"; **or**
 3. Self-certification

Enrollment

- Online Enrollment
- Free - takes approx. 20 minutes
- \$50.00 minimum opening deposit
- Can be done by individual with disability ("Beneficiary") or an Authorized Legal Representative (ALR)
- Account fee of \$3.50 a month (or \$42.00 annually)

Funding your Account

- Contributions
 - Via Electronic Funds Transfer or check
 - \$15,000 annual limit
 - If employed, you may be able to contribute up to an additional \$12,060 of income (*coming soon*)
 - \$462,000 lifetime limit
 - System automatically rejects excess contributions
- Gifting and Investment options are available.

How can you spend your funds?

- Withdrawals must be used on "Qualified Disability Expenses"
 - Anything that (1) relates to your disability and (2) helps to maintain or improve your health, independence, or quality of life

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-Qualified Expenditures, not illegal, but there are consequences ○ Affects Benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The amount of the expenditure <i>may</i> now be considered a countable resource (but not necessarily) ○ Tax Penalties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pay taxes plus 10% penalty on the earnings portion of the withdrawal <p><u>Spending From Your Account</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Withdrawals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transfer to personal checking or savings ▪ Third-Party Check ▪ Transfer to STABLE Card ▪ Free + No Limits ▪ AZ ABLE will not ask what you spend on, but benefits agencies and IRS can <p>For more information visit website at: az-able.com.</p>
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HRC Liaison Updates

Taylor Pike

Discussion	<p>Taylor Pike inquired as to how the April 6th ATPC tour went. Feedback from the committee was overall very positive. The HRC thanked Tonia Schultz for her time. Overall the committee expressed obvious effort displayed in renovating ATPC. Feedback provided included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATPC was clean and smelled good, all the members were clothed, looked comfortable and happy. Members were showing off new clothing items. • Minor maintenance concerns/recommendations for the grounds such as overgrown bushes that may be a safety hazard to members. Broken security door. • Rooms were personalized to individuals, this is difficult to do/maintain and they looked excellent. • Incident observed with staff and member, this was reported to Tonia Schultz and elevated. <p>These HRC members would like to return in another 6 months. The April 14th ATPC tour is confirmed for the rest of the committee.</p> <p>Taylor reminded the committee that due to a change in statute the HRC will receive an increase in Incident Reports. There is no date confirmed for when this change will occur. Requested that the HRC think about how they may want to handle this change.</p> <p>Richard Kautz has requested Guidelines/Bylaws be submitted for each HRC. Taylor will email the HRC a draft that has not yet been approved for the committee to look at individually. The committee will discuss it at the next meeting. At the next meeting a sub-committee will form to revise and write the final draft for submission.</p>
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Approval of March Minutes

Jennifer Huot

Discussion	Cathryn Whalen made a motion to approve the March 2018 minutes as written, motion seconded by Jill Wilson . All in favor. Motion carried.
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Call to the Public

Jennifer Huot

Discussion	No members of the public present.
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Adjournment

Jennifer Huot

Conclusion	The next meeting will be held on May 9th, 2018 at 5:00 pm at the 120 W. 1 st Avenue, Mesa, AZ location. Meeting adjourned by Jennifer Huot at 7:00 pm.
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